

Amendments to the claims

Claim 1 (original): A microprocessor comprising:

an identifier that identifies the microprocessor; and
embedded instructions for comparing a hash value, derived from the
identifier and a key, to an expected hash value.

Claim 2 (original): The microprocessor of claim 1 further comprising embedded
instructions for producing a hash value that is a function of the identifier and a
key.

Claim 3 (original): The microprocessor of claim 2 wherein the identifier comprises
a processor number.

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Claim 4 (original): The microprocessor of claim 3 wherein the embedded
instructions comprise microcode.

Claim 5 (original): The microprocessor of claim 4 wherein the key corresponds to
an address for a web site.

Claim 6 (original): The microprocessor of claim 5 wherein the expected hash
value is derived from a key that corresponds to an address for a web site and a
processor number.

Claims 7-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (original): A method for confirming the identity of a computer system
comprising:

transmitting a request from an application to a computer system to confirm
the identity of the computer system, the request accompanied by a key and an

expected hash value derived from that key and a first identifier for a computer system;

retrieving a second identifier that identifies the computer system;

generating a hash value derived from the second identifier and the key;

and

comparing that hash value with the expected hash value.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12 wherein the application comprises a decryption program and wherein the method further comprises:

storing the result of the hash value comparison; and

forwarding that result to the decryption program.

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Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein the first and second identifiers are each processor numbers.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14 wherein the key comprises a unique bit string that corresponds to a web site address.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim 13 further comprising returning a true response if the first and second processor numbers are identical, and returning a false response if the first and second processor numbers are not identical.

Claims 17-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (original): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored therein that, when executed by a microprocessor, cause the identity of a computer system to be periodically checked as it executes an

application to ensure that the computer system is authorized to execute the application, such periodic checks performed by:

delivering to a microprocessor a key and an expected hash value, derived from the key and a first processor number for a computer system; and

a1 instructing the microprocessor to compare that expected hash value to a hash value derived from that key and the processor number for the computer system that is executing the program, then to return to the application the result of that comparison.

Claims 21-24 (canceled)
